

WATER SUPPLY.

A by no means insignificant minority of the people of Victoria believe that the question of water supply is a very live topic at the present time. Before the summer is over that not insignificant minority will be merged in a significant majority. It has already been convincingly demonstrated that the system of distribution is more to blame for the shortage of water, possibly at all seasons of the year, certainly at this season of the year, than an insufficiency of water at the base of supply in Elk Lake.

There is no doubt that some of the leading industrial chiefs of the United States are warm advocates of tariff revision. According to a special correspondent of the New York World, W. A. Bennett, president of the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, and one of the most extensive manufacturers and wholesale dealers in lumber in the Middle West, said: "I believe the tariff needs revision, but I am aware of the difficulty of making a statement on the subject that would be satisfactory to everybody. I am a protectionist, but I do not believe lumber longer needs protection. Our forests are becoming devastated and to save them as much as possible there should be no restriction on the bringing of lumber to this country from Canada and other countries. I do not believe that iron and steel need protection. I cannot see where protection should be asked for or given the United States Steel Corporation. I do not know as much about other lines of commerce and industry, but the ones I have mentioned certainly do not appear to me in need of protection."

Secretary Taft, with a daring worthy of his chief, has publicly declared that the United States tariff must be revised. He says the conditions have changed greatly since the times of Mr. Dingley, that vast numbers of people regard excessive protection as something closely akin to legalized robbery, and that the time has come for his country to take cognizance of the fact that there are relations with other nations to be considered in fixing the rate of duties. It is noticeable that Mr. Taft carefully refrains from saying whether the tariff ought to be revised upward or downward. The "stand patters" however, agree that there can be but one meaning to Mr. Taft's words, and that is that the duties must be scaled downward. Our recollection is that at one time in the history of the nation a committee was appointed by one of the national legislative bodies or by the president of that time to revise the tariff. The understanding then was that the duties were to be slashed. The committee discharged its business, after carefully listening to the counsel of the protected interests—and made recommendations, practically all in the direction of higher protection. History might repeat itself in the event of Mr. Taft's attaining the position he personally believes he would adorn and for which he is said to have the support of his strenuous chief. But we fear the secretary has been indiscreet. He has spoken too soon upon the subject of tariff revision. He should have us it sleep until he had secured the

nomination for the presidency, if not until after the election. The trusts and the tariff beneficiaries can most unquestionably control the convention. If they believe him to be sincere and not merely "playing to the popular gallery," they will defeat him. But it may be that Mr. Taft intends to defy the corporations and the trusts, after the manner of his chief, knowing that within the past few years the sentiment of the country with regard to protection has greatly changed. If that is the case we shall have an interesting fight for the presidential chair—a campaign premonitory of a fiscal revolution.

CAMPED AT THE "FOOT OF THE THRONE."

Hon. R. G. Tatlow has heard again from Premier McBride. The Premier, it seems, is in constant communication with the Colonial Office and it is determined to keep the avenues open until something definite has been determined upon with reference to the question of better terms. That is a wise resolution. Now that our representative has put his hand to the plough and has incurred on behalf of the province a considerable bill of expense which the taxpayers will have to meet, it would be a mistake to turn back before reaching the end of the furrow. There are scoffers who will say they cannot understand what Premier McBride can accomplish further now that the case is under the consideration of the Colonial Office; but inasmuch as they cannot possibly comprehend all the intricate ramifications of statesmanlike diplomacy, very few people will pay attention to their unreasonable criticisms. It is better to have the question finally disposed of and taken out of the arena of party recrimination. In the natural course of events the Imperial Parliament will rise for relaxation when the grouse shooting season comes in on the glorious twelfth of August. Whatever Lord Elgin or Mr. Winston Churchill intends to do must be done on or before that date, we suppose, unless the normally congested state of business before Parliament interposes insuperable obstacles. Four or five months is not too much time to waste over a matter that in incendiary hands might threaten the entente cordiale between the Dominion of Canada and one of her most important provinces. It is true the Vancouver News-Advertiser has been explaining that the provincial ministers are already overworked and that there is great necessity for the addition of another paid minister to the cabinet; but that announcement may have a more or less direct connection with the aspirations of a minister who is at present without a portfolio and an intimation of the intentions of the Premier to another besides our own friend Mr. Bowser to the list of cabinet ministers. Nor is there any indication in the countenance of Mr. Tatlow or in the equally genial physiognomy of Mr. Fulton that either of them is suffering from the effects of over-exertion. During the four years the government has been in power the presence of one or two ministers in the capital at one time has usually been sufficient for all the purposes of administration. Consequently we do not believe the absence of the Prime Minister for a period of five months will be very seriously felt. We shall therefore support him in his determination to remain in London until his work is completed. We also hope that as the summer season is now at its height, with Derby Day drawing near, with the turf season and the cricket season in full vogue; and with all the sports in which healthy men, including the nobility and gentry, delight, approaching the point of greatest interest, the time may not hang heavily on the hands of the Premier and his staff. After all public life in British Columbia holds out but few compensations for statesmen save the delight of living at the capital and an occasional jaunt to London. Some other members of the McBride government, including at least one prospective member, do not seem to set much store by the first-name privilege, others have made the most of the second. Why should the Premier be expected to hurry back without completing his work when this is the first opportunity the cares of office have permitted him to enjoy one of the chief prerogatives of office?

The Doukhobors have finally found out that in order to retain their lands they must comply with the regulations of the Department of the Interior. They have learned a lesson at considerable cost to themselves. Henceforth they will probably drop their interesting but unprofitable creed of economic ethics and subject themselves to the promptings of common sense.

Under the influence of contact with the outside world, an influence which is being extended by the insistence of nations in practically forcing their commerce and their methods of communication upon China, the inhabitants of that great country are beginning to realize in their own dumb, dull fashion that there is something in the administration of their affairs that urgently calls for reform. The result has been several sporadic uprisings that were put down with comparative ease in all except one instance, the movement of the Boxers, for the quelling of which assistance of foreign nations was either necessary or assumed to be necessary. One of these days there may be a rebellion in China that will not be sporadic but epidemic. Then there will be real trouble for the dynasty, and possibly for some of the world powers. Just as no Occidental ever can tell what is at the back of the mind of the individual Oriental, so it is manifestly impossible to predicate what surprises the most populous of the Oriental nations may at any time probably disclose the fact that the designs of the people collectively are as inscrutable as the methods of the individual.

The Colonist is on sound ground when it maintains that the system under which a portion of the city of Victoria is supplied with water by private corporation cannot be permanent. It was a mistake upon the part of the legislature to saddle the people of Victoria West with the necessity of procuring one of the prime necessities of life from a private company; but a reference to the municipal archives would probably disclose the fact that the then western suburb of Victoria was quite eager to take advantage of the proposition of the Esquimalt Water Works Company. What the legislature in its blindness or ignorance did, the legislature in the light of experience can undo without any desire to inflict injustice. The subject will probably be ripe for discussion when the Privy Council has delivered judgment on the pending appeal.

Now is the appointed time for the theorist who has ideas upon the subject of the sun's vitality to demonstrate that the great orb of day is rapidly dissipating his energy. But in elaborating his thesis he should not overlook our experience in the West. There has been no evidence in this part of the world of a diminution in the sun's strength. The experience of the East has been exceptional, that is all, and the cold weather may be due to conditions beyond the control of Old Sol.

Canada is at last experiencing the conditions which for a long time prevailed exclusively in the United States. When desirable lands are to be thrown open for settlement in any of the provinces of the Northwest upon a specified date there is a stampede to get into line and secure precedence. We are not sure whether the case reported to-day from Yorkton is the first in the history of the country, but it is morally certain it will not be the last.

As the fact has been clearly demonstrated that San Francisco is incapable of self-government as self-government is understood by all well-regulated municipalities; and as it also appears that the people of San Francisco care not a bagatelle whether they involve the United States and Japan in serious misunderstandings which may easily lead to war, how would it do for the Pacific Coast and with the aid of his Big Stick set up irresponsible and unrepresentative but clean municipal government in the Bay City? It is not very clear that the president by any act has given the corporations or the trusts great cause to fear his Big Stick. They have covered before it without amending their ways. But the cause and the effect may be the result of the unwieldy character of American institutions. If Mr. Roosevelt were empowered to deal directly with Mayor Schmitz and the minor grafters in his train as well as with the corporate spottlemen he might be able to accomplish something worth while for San Francisco.

Whether impelled by a desire to get the better of Great Britain or convinced by the inexorable logic of the Canadian sur-tax does not appear; but Germany has ceased to frown and has graciously intimated her desire for closer relations with Canada. Doubtless the opposition newspapers and politicians who condemned the imposition of the sur-tax upon German goods in retaliation for the sur-tax upon Canadian produce, imposed upon the ground that the Fatherland was entitled to preferential treatment in company with Great Britain, will comment just as severely upon the policy of the government if the sur-tax be removed.

DAVID SPENCER, LTD. THE GREAT EMPORIUM OF THE GREAT WEST. DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

Selected Values from the Greatest Old Time Whitewear Sale on Record!

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

Commencing To-day and until further notice, we will close every evening at 5.30 p. m., with the exception of Saturday evening, closing at the usual hour, 9.30 p. m.

A Very Important Feature of the Sale

One of the special features of the sale is the selling of 1,000 boxes of fine Mull Whitewear, English make. Every garment on sale is fresh and not shown before. Observe Government street window display for this particular line.

... SELECTED LINES IN ...

Ladies' White Skirts in Fine Lawns

Table with 2 columns: Sale Prices Range from 75c to \$5.75. Includes an illustration of a white skirt.

A FEW DESCRIPTIONS FOLLOW:

- 90c FOR LADIES' WHITE LAWN SKIRT, with deep ten inch flounce, made with bias torchon insertion, finished with wide torchon lace. Regular price \$1.25.
\$2.15 FOR LADIES' WHITE LAWN SKIRT, made with deep flounce trimmed with panels of lace and finished with wide lace round bottom, under flounce trimmed with a deep lace. Regular price \$3.75.
Sale Prices Range from 65c to \$5.75.
A FEW DESCRIPTIONS FOLLOW:
\$1.25 FOR LADIES' WHITE LAWN SKIRT, with a wide eighteen inch flounce made with fine clusters of tucks edged with a deep embroidery dust frill.
\$1.45 FOR LADIES' WHITE LAWN SKIRT, made with a wide skirt of tuck lawn and insertion, finished with wide lace at bottom, deep dust frill. Regular price \$2.00.
\$2.90 FOR LADIES' WHITE LAWN SKIRT, with half skirt of fine tuck lawn, trimmed with applique ornaments, finished at the bottom with a wide tuck hand-made embroidery; a deep dust frill. Regular price \$3.75.
\$2.35 FOR LADIES' WHITE SKIRT, with a deep half skirt made of all-over lace and bands of mull finished with a tuck ed, frill and deep lace dust frill. Regular price \$3.00.

Canadian Whitewear and Accumulated Lots Specially Priced

An immense stock of Canadian Whitewear goes on sale at liberal reductions. Also accumulated lots of Whitewear from the various show tables, slightly soiled, but otherwise perfect. They have been marked at such figures that we know they must be cleared out promptly.

... SELECTED LINES IN ...

Ladies' Drawers in Lawns and Fine Mulls

Table with 2 columns: Sale Prices Range from 15c to \$1.00. Includes an illustration of a pair of white drawers.

A Few Descriptions Follow

- 15c FOR LADIES' WHITE LAWN DRAWERS with wide muslin tucked frill. Regular price 25c.
35c FOR LADIES' WHITE LAWN DRAWERS with a wide frill, finished with a deep yoke lace. Regular price 50c.
50c FOR LADIES' WHITE L DRAWERS with a deep hem.
25c FOR LADIES' WHITE COTTON DRAWERS with a wide hemstitched frill and deep hem.
75c FOR LADIES' WHITE LAWN DRAWERS, a deep fine tucked frill edged with a wide embroidery. Regular price \$1.00.
90c FOR LADIES' FINE CAMBRIC DRAWERS finished round with insertion threaded with ribbon; wide tucked frill finished narrow hemstitched heading. Regular price \$1.15.
65c FOR LADIES' WHITE CAMBRIC DRAWERS made in nicker style; finished with Valenciennes insertion and wide frill made of insertion and lace with a band of featherstone stitching between. Regular price \$1.00.
\$1.00 FOR LADIES' WHITE MUSLIN DRAWERS, finished in four points, round bottom edge with Valenciennes insertion and finished with narrow tucked frill edged with lace. Regular price \$1.25.
\$1.00 FOR LADIES' WHITE CAMBRIC DRAWERS, finished round bottom with a wide insertion threaded with ribbon and edged with fine torchon lace bows of ribbon to match. Regular price \$1.25.
75c FOR LADIES' WHITE MUSLIN DRAWERS, finished with a band of Valenciennes insertion, edged on either side with fancy braid and a deep tucked frill, edged with Valenciennes lace. Regular price \$1.00.

SELECTED LINES IN

Ladies' Night Dresses in Fine Lawns, Cambric & Mulls

Sale Prices Range from 65c to \$3.75.

- 65c FOR LADIES' WHITE LAWN NIGHTDRESS, made with 6 rows of tucks down front, box pleated, edged with wide embroidery, rolling collar and cuffs, finished with same. Regular price \$1.00.
90c FOR LADIES' WHITE LAWN GOWN, with two rows of tucking either side of front, wide box pleat insertion down front, edged on either side with embroidery, rolling collar finished with embroidery, and cuffs to match. Regular price \$1.25.
\$1.25 FOR LADIES' WHITE LAWN GOWN, deep yoke, made with tucks and insertion attached to lower part of gown, with a frill of embroidery, neck and cuffs finished with same.
\$1.15 FOR LADIES' WHITE LAWN GOWN, made with square yoke of fine tucks and embroidery, wide box pleat of embroidery down centre, rolling collar and cuffs, finished with same. Regular price \$1.50.
\$1.50 FOR LADIES' WHITE CAMBRIC GOWN, made with pointed yoke, yoke embroidered with a large spray of hand embroidery, neck with V-front, edged with lace, lower part of gown attached to yoke with insertion and ribbon, 3/4 sleeve, finished with frill, edged with lace. Regular price \$2.25.
\$1.35 FOR LADIES' WHITE CAMBRIC GOWN, entire front made of fine tucks, rolling collar trimmed with lace insertion, edged with a heading of gown with a wide embroidery insertion, threaded with ribbon, 3/4 sleeve, finished with frill of embroidery; Dutch neck finished with insertion and embroidery.
\$2.75 FOR LADIES' FINE LAWN GOWN, yoke made of hand embroidery, back of gown with three large box pleats, yoke attached to front and sleeves; Dutch neck edged with embroidery. Regular price \$4.50.
\$3.75 FOR LADIES' FINE MULL GOWN, made with deep yoke of five tucks and embroidery insertion, back of gown made with eight fine tucks, extending from neck to bottom of yoke; attached to body of gown with a wide embroidery insertion—threaded with ribbon; two rows of hemstitching down centre of front; elbow sleeves, finished with a wide insertion and fine hand embroidery; bows of ribbon on front and sleeves; Dutch neck edged with embroidery. Regular price \$4.50.

Ladies' Corset Covers in Lawns, Fine Mulls, All-Over Lace and Mulls

SALE PRICES RANGE FROM 35c. to \$1.35. A Few Descriptions Follow:

- 25c FOR LADIES' PLAIN HIGH NECKED CLOSE FITTING CORSET COVER, with short sleeve. Regular price 35c.
35c FOR LADIES' FINE MULL CORSET COVER, edged round neck and sleeve with a fine Valenciennes lace, finished with ribbon. Regular price 40c.
90c FOR LADIES' WHITE COTTON CHEMISE, yoke made of pin tucks and embroidery insertion and ribbon, finished with a narrow lace. Regular price \$1.50.
65c FOR LADIES' CORSET COVERS, high neck cut in V-front, edged with insertion and ribbon, finished with a narrow lace. Regular price 85c.
\$1.35 FOR LADIES' FINE MULL CORSET COVER, made of fine squares of mull and insertion; finished round neck with insertion threaded with ribbon and edged with a fine Valenciennes. Regular price \$1.75.
\$1.15 FOR LADIES' FINE MULL CORSET COVER, yoke made of embroidery and lace insertion, attached to lower part of corset cover, with a fine Valenciennes edge; finished at neck with a heading threaded with ribbon and edged with a fine Valenciennes round neck and sleeves. Regular price, \$1.50.



DAVID SPENCER, LIMITED.

LOCAL

Maxwell Muir, the returned last evening trip to the Mainland.

During the summer preceding Monday, June school of the Church meet from 2.30 to 3.30 from 2 to 4.

The bath house of way property was opened since that time and ed themselves of the taking a dip. This bath enlarged and renovated now up-to-date. The Gorge has not opened so soon.

Mrs. James Dunne in London attended of her daughter, Miss Muir, and Mr. John home to-day. Her two also were present at tials, are accompanying.

The funeral of the pet Bowden took place from the residence Mrs. A. Hartwick, 322 8.45, and at St. Andrew at 9 o'clock. The attendance of sorrow pallbearers were L. Sweeney, E. Radger, Byron and M. McTigue.

It is understood that not has written accept the parks board. The confirm the statement kindly explained that Mr. Arbutnot had paid This completes the pe by-law will therefore the usual formalities included at Monday's e.

In the case of Lev plaintiff made an attempt of claim. The five days in which to ment and the defend ance, and thereafter in defence. A. T. Belye T. Elliott for defend terman made an app of administration in flam Devereux, decedent was granted.

While swimming evening, a young boy by the current, and swimmer was in limn rowing, when he ttracted the attention goles at the city loe ley, who was swimmi immediately went to him to land. Both re were in an exhaust had it not been for pluck, the boy would away and drowned.

Do You

Dr. Pierce's w publicity is the b ligent people gea chs, whether it b step to take, and tary medicines, y cast and on all h composition, or m deal is therefore a exactly what he o ingredient is pub correctness of the s ents are selected for the cure of recommended.

The most eminent ical teachers and several schools of pra e the ingredients Pierce's medicines sible terms. The m medicines believe do not wish to op a lowly young m whatever is prese the way of food, without knowing properties as har the agents employ that health is too s be determined, u should not take the position of which th ager. Dr. Pierce's wholly from the ro growing in the dept forests. They are s they cannot do har to the most delicate open publicity Dr. I medicines out of th terms, of doubtful them REMEDIES SITION. They are f all by themselves, h in every sense non- By this bold step I that his formulas a that he is not afraid the fullest security.

There is a bottle of Dr. Pierce's full list of its ingre as correct under so No other medicine use through druggi to any such distinct that Dr. Pierce's s such professional ingredients. Such n should have fr the afflicted the at non-professional, e nomials.

Of course, the e each ingredient u medicines as well as or manner of prep the specially devise pilanes employed it are withheld from Pierce's proprietary protected from sucl ators as might be The preparation about the use of a